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The Afghan leader noted that despite these problems the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has achieved considerable successes in the economic field. Thus, gross from produce has exceeded the pre-revolutionary level by 6.8 per cent.

The six months since the previous session of the Revolutionary Council, Babrak Karmal said, witnessed extremely important domestic political events. The Loya Jirgha (Supreme Council) of the DRA was held and the Supreme Jirgha of border tribes, and elections to local state bodies have been started. These measures demonstrated that the Afghan people solidarises with the policy of the party and the country's government, is true to ideals of the April Revolution and prepared to resolutely rebuff all the intrigues of the counter-revolution and the aggressive provocations of imperialism and reaction. The strengthening of people's power on the local level brings closer the achievement of the main task which is final victory over the counter-revolution. During the past six months the Afghan Armed Forces have firmly seized the initiative in combat operations against the bandit formations and crushed their dens in Panjshir, Helmand, Khowst, Paktia, Konar, Nangarhar and other areas.

Touching on questions of foreign policy, Babrak Karmal stressed that as a non-aligned state the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan bases its course on principles of defence of peace and progress. It comes out against the threat of war, the arms race and aggressive acts, and strives for the development of good relations with other countries.

SOVIET SOLDIERS FULFILL 'INTERNATIONALIST DUTY'

LD302102 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 30 Sep 85

[Video report entitled "Combat Working Days of Soviet Internationalist Servicemen" by correspondent Mikhail Leschinskiy from Afghanistan; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Leschinskiy] We have landed with the first detachment of our servicemen in this remote gully. Not far from here lies a kishlak, whose inhabitants reported this morning that a large band crossed the border from Pakistan and intruded into the confines of this kishlak and neighboring settlements. [video shows at least three Mi-24 helicopters on rocky terrain, Leshchinskiy with mike standing in foreground]

You can see the houses blown up by the dushmans ablaze. They drove the population into the mountains. That was when the inhabitants of the surrounding kishlaks asked the neighboring subunit of Soviet troops to defend them from the bandits. [video shows aerial view of terraced slopes with burning building, troops alighting in haste from helicopter]

And so, true to their internationalist duty, our servicemen have landed on the outskirts of the kishlak.

Now you see our servicemen with captured weapons. Every brand and system of weapon is here. [video shows crates of assorted weaponry lying on ground, including mortar bombs, rifle grenades, belts of machine gun ammunition, close-up of weapon bearing inscription "Brun: Hafif Makinali Tufengi; model ZB 30"]

Here is further evidence of the way this brutal war is being waged by the dushmans and those who equip them. Whom are they fighting against? The inhabitants, the civilian population of Kishlaks such as this.

Henceforth, here in this Kishlak and its environs, there will be peace.

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As you see, the soldiers are resting. [video shows four soldiers washing in stream]. We have a brief conversation with Lieutenant Luchinyn.

[Luchinyn] In this battle Junior Sergeants Vladimirov and Babushkin, and Sergeant Babushkin, and Sergeant Kiasko distinguished themselves, particularly. They have been recommended for government awards. We shall continue to discharge all the tasks set for us and our internationalist duty to the end, in the correct manner. [video shows Mi-24 flying overhead]

INDIAN PRESIDENT REPEALS RULE IN PUNJAB

LD291959 Moscow TASS in English 1815 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Text] New Delhi, September 29 TASS -- President Zail Singh of India has issued a decree, repealing presidential rule in the strategic state of Punjab which was introduced there in 1983 in connection with the escalation of terroristic activities of secessionists, who demanded that the state be separated from India and that the so-called "state of Khalistan" be formed on its basis. The Akali Party leader Surjit Singh Barnala was sworn in today by the Punjab Governor Arjoon Singh as the chief minister of the Punjab Government. The Akali Dal Party, led by him, won the overwhelming majority of votes at the September 25 elections to the local legislative assembly there. The chief minister assured the electors that his government would take all the necessary steps to restore peace and tranquility in the state.

The elections in Punjab patently demonstrated that its population come out for unity and territorial integrity of India. This was stated in Bombay by India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The Punjab people firmly declared against violence and terrorism, he stressed.

The newspaper TIMES OF INDIA stresses, at the same time, that the threat from Punjab extremists, who are receiving active support from abroad, has not been fully eliminated. The enemies of united and strong India are doing their utmost to destabilise the situation in the state, the newspaper stresses.

NEW INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER CONGRATULATED

BK281456 Moscow in Hindi to India 1130 GMT 28 Sep 85

[Text] The Soviet Foreign Ministry has congratulated the Indian Foreign Minister Bali Ram Bhagat on his appointment to this post and has wished for his success. The ministry telegram expressed confidence that the close friendly relations and cooperation between the Soviet Union and India will be further strengthened.

PAKISTAN 'DISTORTING FACTS' ON EXTERNAL THREATS

PM260949 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Sep 85 First Edition p 5

[Shurygin article: "Provoking"]

[Text] It is noteworthy that, following visits to Pakistan by high-ranking representatives of the U.S. Administration, Islamabad usually makes provocative, bellicose statements to neighboring states.